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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Second Session
Geneva 18 March - 5 April (or 12 April) 1991
Working Group III
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotated provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF WORKING GROUP III ON LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND ALL RELATED MATTERS

A. Provisional agenda for the first session of the Working Group

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Survey of existing agreements and instruments, and criteria for evaluation.

3. Preparation of principles on general rights and obligations.

4. Other legal, institutional and related matters.

5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group.

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its first session.

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Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The Working Group is expected to adopt an agenda for its first session, bearing in mind the resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, in particular paragraph 7 (A/44/48, para. 56).

The Preparatory Committee will elect the chairman of Working Group III. The Working Group is expected to elect three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur.

Item 2. Survey of existing agreements and instruments, and criteria for evaluation

The Working Group is expected to prepare an annotated list of existing international agreements and international legal instruments in the environmental field, describing their purpose and scope, evaluating their effectiveness and examining possible areas for the further development of international environmental law, in the light of the need to integrate environment and development, especially taking into account the special needs and concerns of the developing countries.

In order to facilitate discussion in the Working Group, the secretariat will submit a note on legal issues containing a provisional list of agreements and instruments that may be considered for this purpose, together with tentative criteria for their evaluation with a view to the further development of international environmental law (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/2).

Item 3. Preparation of principles on general rights and obligations

The Working Group is expected to examine the feasibility of elaborating principles on general rights and obligations of States and regional economic integration organizations, as appropriate, in the field of environment and development, and consider the feasibility of incorporating such principles in an appropriate instrument/charter/statement/declaration, taking due account of the conclusions of all the regional preparatory conferences.

In order to facilitate discussion, the secretariat will submit, as part of its note on legal issues for the Working Group (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/2), a checklist of elements that may be considered for this purpose.

Item 4. Other legal, institutional and related matters

The Working Group is expected to:

(a) Consider the legal and institutional issues referred to it by Working Groups I and II and the Plenary of the Preparatory Committee, including the legal and institutional aspects of the cross-sectoral issues dealt with by the preparatory Committee which have been identified in relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(b) Review the role and functioning of the United Nations system in the field of environment and development and make recommendations on ways and means of further enhancing co-ordination and co-operation on environment and development issues in the United Nations system;

(c) Review ways and means of strengthening the co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations system, and co-ordination between the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental, regional and global institutions in the field of environment and development;

(d) Examine and consider strengthening the institutional arrangements required for the effective implementation of the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the United Nations system.

The Working Group will have before it a progress report on institutions prepared by the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.151/PC/36). In order to discharge its mandate in the most effective and timely manner, the Working Group may wish to set priorities for its consideration of the above-mentioned issues at the present and future sessions.

Item 5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group

In the light of the discussion under agenda items 2 to 4, the Working Group may wish to make recommendations for its agenda for the second session, tentatively scheduled to be held at Geneva from 12 to 30 August (or 6 September) 1991.

Item 6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

The Working Group will submit a progress report on its work to the Preparatory Committee.

B. Proposed programme of work of Working Group III 1/

Tuesday, 2 April, 1991

a.m. Item 1 Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Item 2 Survey of existing agreements and instruments, and criteria for evaluation

p.m. Item 3 Preparation of principles on general rights and obligations

Wednesday, 3 April 1991

a.m. Item 4 Other legal, institutional and related matters

p.m. Item 5 Provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group

Thursday, 4 April 1991

p.m. Item 6 Adoption of the report of the Working Group

1/ Depending on the timetable of meetings during the week of 25-28 March 1991, and bearing in mind the decision of the Preparatory Committee not to schedule more than two working group meetings simultaneously, the commencement of the first session of the Working Group may need to be advanced in the light of future developments.